

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

IO-13 /108 W

-----027232 010946Z /15

R 010730Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6921

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AG, SP, SS

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN PRESS DISCUSSES SPANISH POSITION ON
SAHARA QUESTION

1. ALGERIAN PRESS JULY 31 MAKES MUCH OF JULY 29 AFP
DISPATCH FROM MADRID ENTITLED "DECOLONIALIZATION OF
SPANISH SAHARA.

2. AFP REPORT MAKES FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. SINCE SPANISH ELECTIONS, THERE HAS BEEN GENERAL
AWAKENING OF CONSCIENCE IN SPAIN RE SAHARA DECOLONIZATION,
JUDGED BY MANY TO BE LESS THAN PERFECT, PRESS AND
POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING QUESTION ALMOST DAILY.

B. GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES ADMIT FREELY THAT SPAIN NOT
SATISFIED WITH SITUATION AND THAT ABANDONMENT OF SAHARA
UNDER PRESSURE OF MOROCCO'S "GREEN MARCH" WOULD NOT HAVE
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HAPPENED IF FRANCO HAD BEEN IN POSSESSION OF HIS
FACULTIES.

C. THIS WEEK "AUTHORIZED SOURCES" HAVE QUOTED
"IMPORTANT (SPANISH) MINISTER" AS MAKING FOLLOWING
POINTS TO CLEAR UP "AMBIGUITIES" RE NOV. 1976 MADRID
AGREEMENT: (I) AGREEMENT IMPLIES NO RECOGNITION

OF MOROCCAN OR MAURITANIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER TERRITORY BUT MERELY PERMITS RABAT AND NOUAKCHOTT TO ADMINISTER COLONY; (II) SOVEREIGNTY CAN COME ONLY AFTER CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL POPULATION, AND THIS CONSULTATION HAS NOT BEEN UNDERTAKEN; AND (III) NEITHER SPANISH-MOROCCAN FISHING AGREEMENT FOR SAHARA WATERS, NOR BOU CRAA PHOSPHATE EXPLOITATION CHANGES SITUATION.

E. SPAIN CAUGHT IN BIND BETWEEN ITS INTERESTS IN NEIGHBORING MOROCCO AND NEAR NEIGHBOR ALGERIA WHICH UNDERTAKES IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES WITH PENINSULA.

E. "INFORMED OBSERVERS" CONSIDER IT CERTAIN THAT, ONCE CORTES HAS DEALT WITH SPANISH ECONOMIC MEASURES AND CONSTITUTION, PARTIES OF LEFT WILL REOPEN SAHARA DOSSIER.

3. OFFICIAL FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY RUNS AFP DISPATCH IN ITS ENTIRETY, AND BOTH FRENCH AND ARABIC LANGUAGE PAPERS CARRY EDITORIAL ON SPAIN AND SAHARA. THESE NOT CALLS OF SPANISH POLITICAL GROUPS, NOTABLY THAT OF PSOE IN NOVEMBER 1976. FOR SAHARA SELF-DETERMINATION, AND ASSERT THAT SPAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY REMAINS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. COMMENT: UNDERSTANDABLY, ALGERIANS APPEAR TO SEE AFP ARTICLE INDICATING THAT THEIR POLICY OF CULTIVATING SPANISH POLITICAL GROUPS ON SAHARA QUESTION IS PAYING DIVIDENDS. HAYNES

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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